

Today's Geography



LINE OF FRIENDSHIP MAY MARK TRADE ROUTE

Hearings in a dozen cities of both countries by the United States and Canadian joint commission to consider connecting the St. Lawrence river and the Great Lakes by a canal system awakened a new interest in the nearly 4,000 miles of border that separates this country from its neighbor to the north.

The boundary between the two great English-speaking countries of America, giving them joint ownership of some of the greatest lakes in the world, as well as a river of prime importance, holds possibilities for development overlooked by many of the citizen-stockholders on both sides of the line. The single scheme now under discussion for the construction of canals to handle ocean-going ships foreshadows a work that would rival in magnitude and importance even the epoch-making engineering feats at Panama. With huge canals connecting the waters of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence, ships capable of negotiating any weather could sail with the ore, coal and grain of the western United States and Canada, directly to any port of the Seven seas.

Discussion by the two countries of the feasibility of engaging jointly in the development of their border waters is in contrast with some of the stormy incidents in which the boundary has figured. Known in recent years as "the border without forts," and come at last to be regarded as a line of amity and friendship, it is perhaps not generally realized now that until the cumulative efforts of years resulted not long ago in the settlement of some long-standing disputes, the United States-Canadian boundary was the source of almost continual misunderstanding. Many times there were unpleasant incidents, twice the countries were on the verge of war, and for well over a hundred years after the close of the Revolutionary war diplomats, commissioners, and even neutral kings and emperors acting as arbitrators were kept busy trying to straighten out the many snarls into which a border line can become tangled.

Much of the trouble in regard to the boundary resulted from ignorance of the geography of the country on the part of the early negotiators. The St. Croix river which the earliest treaty stated should form the eastern line of Maine at the very starting point of the international boundary was not satisfactorily identified at first, and this caused friction for some years.

A second geographical error—the assumption that the Lake of the Woods drained into Lake Superior—is responsible for the rather indefinite boundary of small lakes and brooks between the two large lakes. The belief that the Mississippi river had its source in Canada, and field notes in accordance with that belief, brought about the existence of a tract of land of a hundred square miles, cut off on a peninsula on the northern shore of the Lake of the Woods, practically surrounded by Canadian territory and many miles across the water from other land of the United States.

In connection with still another United States-Canadian boundary—that between southern Alaska and British Columbia—a mistaken impression of early Russian traders has given the United States a boundary running helter-skelter over foothills and ridges when it was believed to follow a mountain watershed, a logical geographical boundary.

KIPLING SETTING NOW NEWS BACKGROUND

The Simla Hills of Kipling fame and the interesting Punjab country again were brought to public attention this year by reports of riots among nations who had been aroused by the rumored destruction of the golden temple of Amritsar, a principal city of this province.

Punjab is a Persian word meaning "five waters," and refers to an area in India, about the size of Oregon, between the Jhelum and the Sutlej, drained by three intermediate streams. These rivers empty into the Indus, which forms the western boundary of the state.

Situated at the northwest gateway of India, the Punjab has for ages been the Belgium of most of the military expeditions from the west and the trail of many migrations. For this reason its peoples—Mohammedans, Sikhs, Hindu Jats, Kashmiris and Rajputs, all belonging to the tall, fair Indo-Aryan stock—are not so sluggish in temperament and ways of living as those in other parts of the country, and many of them manifest a martial spirit upon small provocation. England counted them among her most valued soldiers on the western front.

The vast plain of the Punjab is about one thousand feet above sea level and on the north runs into the "Abode of Snow," the Himalaya mountains. At the southwestern end of the watershed stands Simla, and from it the mountains drop rapidly to the foothills and then to the plain. Jalko, the deodar-clad hill of Kipling's stor-

ies, is immediately within view, towering a thousand feet above Simla. Here in this town, 7,000 feet above the level of the sea, in early April, when the heat of the great Punjab plain reaches 120 degrees, most of the Europeans in India gather and around the summer home of the viceroy of India the social life revolves. Within a 25-mile radius from Simla is the Chor, upon whose peak, 12,000 feet high, a snow cap is worn until well into May. Farther to the west the higher peaks range from 16,000 to 22,000 feet.

A MAGIC ISLAND OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Amid the trials of coal scarcity, H. C. of L. and politics, it may be restful to read of a place where breezes blow cool, but seldom too hot or too cold, and the scenery is magic; where people are peaceable and honest, and there are no profiteers; where the women are pretty, charming and easily entertained, and life moves along with a song!

There is such a spot. Ten hours out from continental Spain on a fairly fast and quite comfortable steamer lies a little archipelago—the Balearic Islands, whose largest island, called Mallorca, or Majorca, is perhaps the most enchanting corner, one of the most interesting and pleasing, as well as one of the most forgotten islands of the Mediterranean. The following account of its attractions is summarized from the description of an eyewitness, Col. Ernesto de March y de Garcia-Mesa, Spanish army.

A great painter and writer called it the "island of calm," for there everyone moves, rests, talks, walks and conducts his courtships as if the day had 48 hours, the mile about 10,000 feet, and the span of human life 700 years; so little haste do they make in living and enjoying life. One Mallorquin of noble family is said to have waited 45 years in determining to lead his sweetheart to the altar, with no protest from her, and without having been slain in exasperation by his mother-in-law.

Last summer during the latter part of July when the thermometer in Washington and New York stood around 90 degrees in the shade, and in Madrid ran to blood heat, the breeze fanned these island folk to the tune of 75 degrees.

Nor is this wonderful island an impractical place to spend a few months. There are about 120 miles of railroads on the island, and a system of local roads which permit of a traveler's visiting many of the chief points of interest with ease and comfort.

These people who take life so leisurely are not lazy, shiftless or unpleasant in personal appearance or manner. They are intelligent, honest, capable of work, sober and economical. These characteristics preserved throughout centuries of uninterrupted peace and tranquillity have made them peaceable, trusting, and homeloving. The men are of medium height, strong, and agile. They have competed brilliantly in many of the championship sporting events held in Spain, and wherever they have gone on the continent their undertakings have been marked with success. And as for the women, Colonel March, in writing of them, says: "They possess the same lovely skin as the women of North America, features as if sculptured by Phidias or Praxiteles, and they walk like goddesses." But he laments in the next breath that they know nothing of the "joy of living," due partially to ancestral Arabic influences, and to the fact that their island has, for so long, been under strict repression. He calls Mallorca "the loveliest cage on the planet, its wonderful, intelligent and gracious women being extremely bored."

And an all-important feature—the cost of living is low in Mallorca. Who would not be astonished to know that he could become a member of the "Royal Club of Regattas," fully and comfortably equipped, for about 20 cents a month in dues? Though prices rose here as elsewhere during the war, the Spanish colonel says that it is the "spot of all Europe and America, where one could have lived the most reasonably during these past five years."

EGYPT: A DIAMOND MINE OF HISTORY

Egypt annually supplies the world with a precious product, an increasing knowledge of the early life story of the human race. In the wonderful record of exploration which has restored to us the civilization of the great pre-classical nations, there is no more remarkable chapter than that which tells of the resurrection of ancient Egypt. A communication to the National Geographic society by James Baikie, says:

"The science of Egyptology, which is slowly and patiently reconstructing for us the ordered history of the 3,000 years before Christ, enabling us to see the types of men, the manner of life, the forms of government, the religious customs and beliefs of period after period, from the very dawn of Egyptian nationality, is specifically a growth of our own time.

"We owe the framework into which we try to fit the facts of Egyptian history to the ancient historian, Manetho, scattered fragments of whose history of Egypt, dating from the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus, in the third century B. C., have come down to us in the works of various ancient authors. He recognized 30 dynasties of Egyptian monarchs, and he left lists of the names of the kings in each of these dynasties, together with occasional notes upon matters of historical interest in particular reigns.

"The kings of the earliest dynasties reared no pyramids. Their tombs were great structures mainly underground. These huge homes of the dead were filled with all sorts of objects thought necessary or useful for the deceased king in the underworld.



Gateway of Ptolemy Euergetes at Karnak.

with pottery dishes, splendid copper bowls, carved ivory boxes, golden buttons, palettes for grinding face paint, chairs and couches of elaborate design and decoration, ivory and pottery figurines, and plaques bearing records of the king's valor in war or his piety in the founding of temples.

"Here and there in this wreckage of immemorial splendors, a little touch helps us to realize that these dim historic figures were real men, who loved and sorrowed as men do still. Close to Menes' second tomb at Abydos lies that of his daughter Bener-ab—"Sweetheart," as he called her—to suggest how love and death went side by side then as now.

"The furniture of the tombs reveals an amazing proficiency in the arts and crafts. Ebony chests inlaid with ivory; stools with ivory feet carved in the shape of bull's legs; vessels cut and ground to translucent thinness, not only out of soft alabaster, but out of an iron-hard stone like diorite; finely wrought copper ewers, all tell us that the Egyptian of the earliest dynastic period was no rude barbarian, but a highly civilized craftsman. Perhaps the faintest and most convincing evidence of his skill is given by the bracelets which were found encircling the skeleton arm of the queen of King Zer, of the first dynasty."

THE EVOLUTION OF FIRE FIGHTING

The passing of the fire horses from Manhattan island and the installation of a high-pressure water system in Boston to eliminate even the fire engine are further steps in the stage of progress from the romantic days of the picturesque old hand tubs. Older folk may remember when citizens tricked themselves out in red shirts and glazed caps and carried torches in the front of a procession, or formed part of the bodyguard of the gallant old tub as it paraded the streets on a gala occasion. Then passion for fire fighting ran to a high pitch and arguments were waged about the merits of particular engines. Today the throbs of a motor-driven engine are taking the place of those heart throbs. The horses that might have clattered from their stalls, glided beneath their harness, and raced gloriously through the drizzly, night-darkened streets before the fire-splitting demon, are drawing farm wagons or plowing the field.

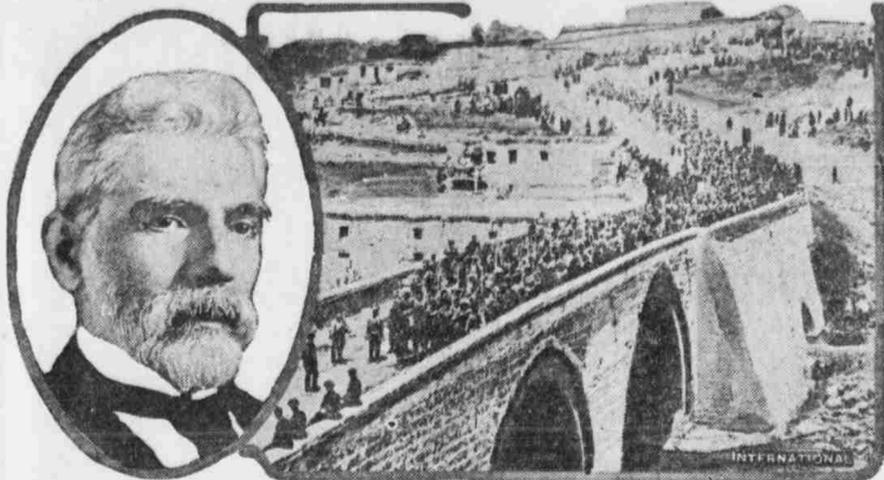
In by-gone days communities were dependent upon volunteers, and men from all social ranks gave valuable time to qualify for the service.

Fire fighting in some sort of organized form is ancient. Machines for throwing water from a distance were known, according to our first clear evidence, in the second century before Christ. Heron of Alexandria, 200 years before the Christian era, in an old manuscript which has escaped destruction, described a hydraulic machine used in Egypt during the time of the Ptolemies. It was composed of two brass cylinders resting on a wooden base with pistons fitted into them—in its principles practically like our present engine. Like most other knowledge, this was lost in the dark ages which followed.

The Romans had squads of men to carry water in "hamae," or light vases, to the scene of an outbreak where it was projected onto the fire by those in charge of the "siphones" or hand pumps. The precise nature of this instrument has not been determined, but from specimens found in excavations it must have been much like the old-fashioned syringe used by gardeners. These large organizations of men gave the Roman authorities trouble by their turbulence. Trajan, the Roman emperor, and Pliny, at that time one of his governors, had long and serious correspondence over the advisability of organizing fire departments in the cities under Pliny's jurisdiction, leading to the conclusion that such groups would attain sufficient strength to be a menace to the government.

Mention is made of the medieval use of forcing pumps on fire engines at Augsburg in 1518. England and the countries of the continent were using hand squirts and syringes at this time. America took her ideas from the English.

Armenian Troops Bound for the Battle Front



Armenian troops marching out of the city of Erivan, the Armenian capital, to meet the Turkish forces. Several days later these Armenians defeated the Turks in a battle at Igdir. Inserted is a portrait of Channes Kadzazuni, who was first president of Armenia, and is now fighting as a private.

Where Italy and Jugo-Slavia Are Negotiating



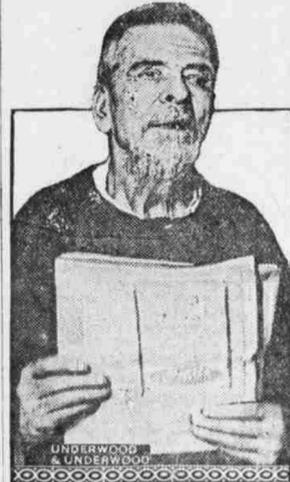
View of an old quarter in Rapallo, where the Italians and Jugo-Slavs formulated their treaty, and are settling their respective territorial claims.

Christmas Seals for President



Christmas Red Cross seals are on sale as usual all over the United States. President Wilson believes in laying in his supply of seals early. The picture shows little Miss Adrian Mayer of Washington delivering the seals for the president to Secretary Tumulty.

WAS IN FAMOUS CHARGE



There is at least one survivor of the historic charge of the light brigade at Balaklava, and he is William Woodroffe, formerly of the eleventh Hussars, now living with his wife in Cumberland, England. Although ninety-two, his mind is clear and vigorous as when he retired as a sergeant major from the army in 1872. He has told the thrilling story of the charge and recited Tennyson's immortal poem before many distinguished gatherings.

Milk for the Children of Berlin



Scene in one of the distributing plants of the Salvation Army in Berlin, where 10,000 poor and hungry children have received a can of condensed milk each for ten weeks in succession.

TAKEN FROM EXCHANGES

Women voters of Vienna exceed the men by 25 per cent. Men and women who fail to vote in Czechoslovakia are sentenced to jail.

The interior of the Okefenokee swamp in Georgia has never been visited.

A tunnel-shaped cave more than a mile long has been discovered in the Deschutes national forest of Oregon.

MAKES WAR MEMORIALS



J. Davidson, noted sculptor of war memorials, photographed on the steamship on his arrival in New York.

Odd Happening.

"She is not in society, but she is a perfect duck of a girl." "Then it is a wonder she is not in the swim."